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Title: Regarding taking measures to fix grant amount for builidng of houses according to the regional cost of buildings and increase the number of dwelling units.

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in this 'Zero Hour'.

Madam, in India, out of 200 million families, approximately 65 to 70 million families do not have adequate housing facility. The Indira Awas Yojana has a provision to provide shelter to millions of rural families belonging to SC, ST, minorities and below poverty line category. But it is very sad to say that under Indira Awas Yojana only Rs.70,000 are given to each family for construction of a house.

The State of West Bengal consists of hilly as well as plain area. It is very difficult to complete the construction in this amount as it is very meagre. I urge the Government to take urgent measures to fix the grant amount according to the regional cost of buildings and increase the number of dwelling units.

I also request the Government to provide special quota to Arambag constituency which is inhabitated with rural people belonging to SC, ST category.